

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3407
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
USAREUR
USAFE
USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DUSSELDORF 0157

FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJ: NRW/SPD CAUCUS DISCUSSES KUEHN SUCCESSION

REF: DUSSELDORF 0111

1. IN A TWO DAY CLOSED SESSION THE NORTHRHINE WESTPHALIA
(NRW) SPD LEADERSHIP AND THE NRW/SPD FACTION DEBATED
THE TWIN PROBLEMS OF TENURE AND SUCCESSION FOR HEINZ
KUEHN AS NRW MINISTER PRESIDENT.

2. THE SPD LANDTAG FACTION IS SPLIT INTO THREE GROUPS
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ON THESE POINTS. ONE GROUP IS SPONSORING NRW JUSTICE
MINISTER DR. KIETHER POSSER, ANOTHER NRW
SCIENCE AND RESEARCH MINISTER JOHANNES RAU. BOTH OF
THESE GROUPS URGED AN EARLY CHANGE, AFTER A DECENT
INTERVAL TO AVOID A DIRECT LINK WITH THE POUILLAIN
AFFAIR.

3. A THIRD GROUP WOULD PREFER TO POSTPONE THE ISSUE UNTIL 1980. THE CHAMPIONS OF THIS GROUP ARE EITHER NRW MINISTER OF LABOR PROFESSOR DR. FRIEDHELM FARTHMANN OR FORMER FEDERAL MINISTER OF LABOR WALTER ARENDT OR STATE MINISTER IN THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE HANS JUERGEN WISCHNEWSKI. ALL WOULD HAVE TO BECOME LANDTAG DEPUTIES IN THE 1980 ELECTIONS TO BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR THE POSITION OF MINISTER PRESIDENT.

4. POSSER PROBABLY WILL TAKE OVER THE NRW FINANCE

MINISTRY, REPLACING HALSTENBERG WHO HAS BEEN ELECTED TREASURER OF THE FEDERAL SPD. THE JUSTICE MINISTRY TO BE VACATED BY POSSER IS TO BE TAKEN OVER BY JOHN VAN NES-ZIEGLER, PRESENTLY VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NRW LANDTAG AND LORD MAYOR OF COLOGNE.

5. FDP LANDTAG FACTION LEADER HANS KOCH HAS AGAIN CONFIRMED THAT THE FACTION WILL ENDORSE EITHER RAU OR POSSER AS MINISTER PRESIDENT WITH ALL OF ITS FOURTEEN VOTES. DUX

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Message Attributes

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